

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings separates Figs. 1A and 1B. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1A and 1B, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1A and 1B.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

### REMARKS

A copy of the first page of the certified copy of the priority document, DE 102 44 858.2, is enclosed as requested by the examiner.

A replacement sheet of drawing separating Figures 1A and 1B is enclosed as requested.

The specification has been amended to provide language which provides better antecedent basis for claim language.

Claim 1 has been amended to define the invention more clearly by reciting the support ring having spring tongues which are mounted against the rollover tube. In the preferred embodiment, shown in Figure 2, the support ring 8 has spring tongues 17 which are mounted against the rollover tube 4, thereby supporting and centering the rollover tube 4 on the container tube 7, as claimed.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected as anticipated by Feller DE 196 45 228. To the extent that this reference would be applied against claims as presently amended, such rejection is traversed for the reasons following.

Feller discloses a container tube 4 having a cap provided with four radially extending support studs (Stütznasen) 9-9" which support a rollover tube 8. While applicants do not possess a translation of this document, there is nothing to indicate that the support studs could in any way be seen as resilient spring tongues. As such Feller is closer to the prior art shown in applicants' Figure 1A, and neither anticipates applicants' invention nor renders it obvious.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Roemer U.S. 6,116,584. This too is traversed.

Roemer discloses a rollover tube 6 mounted on a housing surrounding a container tube 9 by means of an elastomeric body 10 so that the rollover tube 6 can pivot as shown in Figure 2. The upper end of the rollover tube 6 is spaced from guide sleeve 14 by a gap 21 which permits this pivoting movement. Here too there is no suggestion of radially resilient spring tongues.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Long, Jr. U.S. 3,157,396 in view of Raulf et al. U.S. 6,286,820. This too is traversed.

Long, Jr. discloses a cylindrical wall 20 which is spaced from a container tube 14 at opposite ends by closure caps 22, 24. A spring bellows 40 rolls over a sleeve 28 fitted to the cylindrical wall 20. The examiner's reference to guide 39 as a support ring is not understood, because this element is located externally of a metal band 50 which itself is external to cylindrical wall 20. Here too there is no suggestion of a support ring having resilient spring tongues between the container tube 14 and the wall 20.

Raulf et al. discloses a rollover tube 9 mounted to a sleeve 27 which is mounted around a container tube 15 by a sealing ring 25. A cover plate 31 is fixed between the rollover tube 9 and the sleeve 27. The examiner refers to this plate 31 as a support ring, but it does not include any radially resilient spring tongues mounted against the rollover tube 9.


Only applicants disclose and claim a support ring which is economic to manufacture and easy to install, and provides good centering and support while having sufficient tolerance (by virtue of the resilient tongues) to accommodate small dimensional variations. The support ring according to the invention prevents tipping of the rollover tube with respect to the container tube without requiring a solidly welded or fitted spacer.

The claims as amended being definite and clearly patentable over the art of record, withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance are solicited. If any objections remain, a call to the undersigned is requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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## Prioritätsbescheinigung über die Einreichung einer Patentanmeldung

<b>Aktenzeichen:</b>	102 44 858.2
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<b>Anmelder/Inhaber:</b>	ZF Sachs AG, Eitorf/DE
<b>Bezeichnung:</b>	Schwingungsdämpfer
<b>IPC:</b>	F 16 F, B 60 G

Die angehefteten Stücke sind eine richtige und genaue Wiedergabe der ursprünglichen Unterlagen dieser Patentanmeldung.

München, den 20. Juni 2003  
Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt  
Der Präsident  
Im Auftrag

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely of the President of the German Patent and Trademark Office.